

of drinking water. The study concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids poses "little or no threat" to humans or the environment (EPA). The EPA did not find a single incident of the contamination of drinking water wells by hydraulic fracturing fluid injection.

The subject of hydraulic fracturing is adequately regulated by the states and needs no federal intervention. Hydraulic fracturing is a vital and safe technology that helps drive the United States towards energy security and independence. Congress should not restrict a technology that plays such an integral part of our nation's energy strategy.

H. RES. 543, DESIGNATING JUNE
AS HOME SAFETY MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this of this legislation, which recognizes June as Home Safety Month.

I would like to thank Congresswoman HALVORSON for her leadership in introducing this resolution and her commitment to the safety of America's homeowners.

At a time when we are encouraging homeowners to stay in their homes and increasing our efforts to spur new homeownership, we must also recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of homeowners within their homes.

Each year, 20,000 deaths and an average of 21 million medical visits result from unintentional injuries in the home, according to the Home Safety Council. The top five causes of unintentional home injury deaths include, falls, poisoning, fires or burns, choking or suffocation, and drowning. Such home injuries can cost employers up to \$38 billion dollars a year.

Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if homeowners were equipped with the knowledge of simple and inexpensive steps to reduce the injury of risk in each area of the home.

Furthermore, children and older adults have increased rates of unintentional home injury. We must encourage adults, parents, caregivers to take greater actions to reduce unintentional injuries to protect the most vulnerable family members.

H. Res. 543 encourages manufacturers to develop innovative safety products and features to help lessen home injuries and accidents and encourages all levels of government to support funding for critical home safety education programs to reduce the risks from home injuries.

I strongly support H. Res. 543 and cannot stress enough how home safety education and awareness can help save lives and money.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL KIRK W. HYMES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Colonel Kirk W. Hymes, U.S.M.C., the director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate. After 26 years of honorable and distinguished service to our great nation, Colonel Hymes will be retiring.

Colonel Hymes is a native of Altoona, Pennsylvania and graduated from the United States Naval Academy. After attending the Basic School, he trained at the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He also attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Colonel Hymes served in a number of different places and in a variety of capacities, including the Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where he served as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer and Twentynine Palms, California where he served with the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines. He also carried out a Unit Deployment to Okinawa, Japan and deployed with the 31st MEU (SOC). Following his return he became the Director of the 11th Marines Artillery Training School.

Subsequently, Colonel Hymes became the Fire Support Operational Test Project Officer at the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity, Quantico, Virginia. After transferring to the 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina he served with the 10th Marine Regiment where he was the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for 2d Battalion, 10th Marines and then the Regimental Operations Officer.

After reporting to Okinawa for duty with III Marine Expeditionary Force, he served in the G-3 Exercise Branch as the South East Asia Exercise Branch Head and Tandem Thrust Exercise Planner. He then returned to Twentynine Palms, California for duty as the Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines where he deployed the battalion to support Operation Enduring Freedom and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Hymes was later assigned to the Expeditionary Force Development Center at the Marine Corps Combat Development Center as the Integration Branch Head and Deputy Director for Operations.

Madam Speaker, throughout his career, Colonel Hymes received many personal awards including the Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal with four Gold Stars, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. Upon his retirement, I commend him for his outstanding service and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on ear-

marks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

H.R. 2996 includes \$500,000 for a State and Tribal Assistance Grant to the City of Rose Hill, Kansas, for improvements to the city drainage system. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Rose Hill, 125 W. Rosewood, PO Box 185, Rose Hill, Kansas 67133.

This funding will facilitate the installation of a 48-inch drainage pipe, which will allow the area to handle up to a 10-year storm event, protecting homes in the area.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House Is Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense; to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment and thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH for their tireless work on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Services. I would also like to congratulate Congressman MCHUGH and wish him luck as he transitions to his new post as Secretary of the Army.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Skelton en bloc amendment which includes legislation I introduced requiring the Department of Defense to notify any member of the Armed Forces who is exposed to a potentially harmful material or contaminant and inform them of the health risks associated with that exposure. In the case the exposed soldier is a member of a reserve component, the Secretary of Defense will be required to notify the State military department.

Back in March I spoke with one of my constituents, Larry Roberta, a member of the Oregon National Guard who is suffering the health effects of being exposed to toxic chemicals on the battlefield. In 2003, while serving in Iraq, Oregon National Guard Members like Larry were unknowingly exposed to Hexavalent Chromium while assigned to protect contractors rebuilding a water treatment facility near Iraqi oil fields. The problem with chemicals like Hexavalent Chromium is they can cause severe illnesses that may not appear until months or years after the exposure.

Their exposure to this cancerous agent was withheld from them while they were in the theater, and many of our soldiers are still unaware the symptoms they are experiencing may be related to a toxic exposure. Fast forward six years and the Oregon Guard is still having a difficult time tracking down all the soldiers they feel may have been exposed.

The estimated number of exposed Oregon soldiers is in the hundreds—many of these soldiers are still unaware they may have been exposed to toxic substances that are impacting their health. Had there been a notification

requirement and protocol in place it is very likely these soldiers would be identified, aware of their situation, and able to seek the appropriate care they need.

We're within days of sending 3,000 of Oregon's finest to the Middle East. This amendment provides them with added security and protection they need, and frankly deserve. I'd like to thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member McHUGH for their support to address this critical issue that has impacted so many of Oregon's citizen soldiers, and I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this important amendment.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I would like to list the congressionally-directed projects I requested in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the report of H.R. 2996, the FY2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of Buhl Wastewater System Improvements

Amount: \$500,000

Account: EPA/STAG

Recipient: City of Buhl

Recipient's Address: 203 North Broadway, Buhl, ID 83316

Description: The city is periodically exceeding the NPDES limitations under the Clean Water Act and was recently fined by EPA for non-compliance of their pH, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) limitations. IDEQ and EPA have mandated that the city build a new wastewater treatment center. Buhl, a town of less than 5,000 residents, recently passed a bond election for \$15 million to help pay for the required improvements to their water system. The loan funds will be a burden to the residents—many of whom are elderly (19% of the community) and the majority of whom are low to moderate income—and will increase monthly water bills by over \$100, but even this will be unsustainable without additional assistance. Funding for this project will enable the city build a new wastewater treatment center that would meet the Federal and State mandates imposed on the community.

Project Name: Historic Old Pen Site Stabilization Project

Amount: \$150,000

Account: National Park Service/Save America's Treasures

Recipient: Idaho State Historical Society

Recipient's Address: 2205 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, ID 83712

Description: This project will provide stabilization to the Old Idaho State Penitentiary historic site, which is operated by the Idaho State Historical Society. The Old Pen is one of the West's most significant prison sites and one of the most visited cultural facilities in Idaho. It thus plays a key role in the economic vitality of Boise and the Treasure Valley. Funding would be used for work needed immediately to stabilize the site. In addition,

funding would be used for a historic structures report to help better anticipate future maintenance and repair needs before they become emergency situations.

Project Name: Idaho Sage-Grouse Management Plan

Amount: \$500,000

Account: Fish and Wildlife Service/ESA Resource Management

Recipient: Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

Recipient's Address: 300 N. 6th Street, Boise, ID 83702

Description: Sage-grouse are on the verge of being listed under the Endangered Species Act, with a decision on listing expected this spring. Idaho is taking proactive steps to recover this species before a listing is required. The management plan, which is a partnership with private landowners, is an attempt to be wise stewards of the nation's wildlife without being compelled to do so by law.

Project Name: Piva Parcel Land Acquisition

Amount: \$400,000

Account: USFS/Land Acquisition

Recipient: U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Recipient's Address: 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

Description: Funds will be used to enable the Forest Service to acquire the 160-acre Piva parcel from a willing seller so that it can be used for public recreation and access to the Redfish Lake recreation area from the town of Stanley. The Forest Service currently has a conservation easement on the property, but acquiring the land is necessary to carry out planned improvements.

Project Name: SNRA Trail Maintenance and Improvements

Amount: \$1,200,000

Account: Capital Improvements and Maintenance (Trail Construction)

Recipient: U.S. Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Recipient's Address: 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340

Description: Funds will be used for trail construction, maintenance, and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Of the funds appropriated for trail maintenance and improvement in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, \$500,000 is for trail improvements; \$500,000 is for maintenance of existing motorized trails and areas; and \$200,000 is for the improvement of two existing trails to provide primitive wheelchair access at Murdock Creek and Phyllis Lake.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects in my district that have received funding in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010 and provide an explanation of my support for them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SCOTT F. LARGE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great integrity, intelligence and insight, Mr. Scott F. Large, on the occasion of his retirement after 23 years of

distinguished service to the Intelligence Community.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Large throughout his tenure as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. When he assumed this role in 2007, the organization was undertaking significant transformation that he helped initiate in earlier leadership roles. He carefully guided changes to strengthen his organization's role as the nation's primary source of space reconnaissance for military and intelligence forces.

Mr. Large's prior assignments prepared him well for this leadership role. He served as the Principal Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office from April, 2007 until his appointment as Director later that year. He also served as Director of the Imagery Systems Operations and Acquisition Directorate from 2003 to 2006, during a period of significant technological and programmatic challenges.

Mr. Large has carried out leadership assignments in two other intelligence community organizations. He was Director of the Source Operations and Management Directorate at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. He also served in the Central Intelligence Agency's Directorate of Operations and as Associate Director of the Science and Technology Directorate, leading technology development programs. Mr. Large made fundamental contributions to these programs and helped establish them as some of the nation's premier intelligence efforts.

Mr. Large's determination to lead fundamental changes in his organization, his willingness to assume leadership roles in other intelligence organizations, and his ability to facilitate collaborative partnerships with other elements of the Intelligence Community are testament to the quality of his leadership.

In announcing that he was stepping down as Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, Mr. Large reminded his workforce of the critical role of space reconnaissance to the nation: For nearly 50 years the NRO has provided this nation with an undeniable intelligence and operational advantage. Today the NRO continues to provide mission critical information to all of our end users. We are clearly on the verge of taking our mission to the next level and have set in motion strategic initiatives which will clearly demonstrate the importance of what you do.

The nation's space reconnaissance workforce and systems are better positioned to contribute to the nation's defenses as a result of the leadership of this public servant. For this, we thank Mr. Large and wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote No. 297, 389, 392, 394 and 405. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all rollcall votes No. 297, 392, and 394. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes No. 389 and 405.